IDW

49

COVER A

SONIC™ THE HEDGEHOG

STANLEY • HERMS • BRECKEL

SEGA®

STORY & ART
EVAN STANLEY

COLORS
MATT HERMS &
HEATHER BRECKEL

LETTERS
SHAWN LEE

EDITORS
RILEY FARMER
DAVID MARIOTTE

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STORY SO FAR

HEY, I GOT QUITE A FEW CALLS DURING THE SHOW FROM CENTRAL CITY THAT YOU THREE MIGHT WANT TO LOOK INTO... I THINK THERE'S A CASE IN IT FOR YA. INTERESTED?
A CASE?

LIGHTS FLICKING ON AND OFF, TRAFFIC SIGNALS CHANGING AT RANDOM, THE WORKS!
AND EVERYONE'S SUDDENLY FORGOTTEN HOW TO DRIVE.
WATCH IT, PAL...

I SAW WHO DID IT. IT WAS A LADY WITH BIG SPIKES AND A BOY MY SIZE.
THE LADY MADE LIGHTNING WITH HER HANDS. THAT'S WHAT STARTED THE FIRE!

AS THE RESTORATION FOCUSED ON REBUILDING, SO, TOO, DID DR. EGGMAN. WE'LL BE INVADING HIS NEW CAPITAL CITY, WHICH IS WHERE I'LL UPLOAD MY OVERRIDE PROGRAM.
SCRAMBLE THE EGGMAN WITH HIS OWN BOTS. LOVE IT!

OUR ACTIVITIES THERE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY GRAB THE ATTENTION OF THE HEROES AND LURE THEM IN.
THE BADNIKS WILL BE SUFFICIENT FOR ANCILLARY SUPPORT, FREEING YOU TWO UP TO FOCUS ON WHAT YOU WERE MADE FOR.
ONCE YOU'VE SEPARATED AND CORNERED YOUR TARGETS, YOU WILL STRIKE WITH ALL YOUR FEROCITY AND WITH ZERO REMORSE...

I WAS BUILT BY A MAN NAMED MR. TINKER. SONIC, YOU SAVED HIM ONCE.*
WHEN HE DISAPPEARED, PEOPLE TOLD ME HE'D BEEN A MONSTER ALL ALONG... THAT HE WAS DR. EGGMAN. I DIDN'T BELIEVE IT. I COULDN'T.
I THOUGHT THAT IF I COULD JUST... COULD JUST TALK TO HIM, HE'D UNDERSTAND. A-AND EXPLAIN, AND--
*ISSUE 6--EDS.

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG
The Blue Blur.
Fastest thing alive.

MILES "TAILS" PROWER
Tech-Savvy Sidekick.
High-flying genius.

BELLE THE TINKERER
Clumsy Marionette.
Enthusiastic newcomer.

READY?

ALL THE CABLES ARE IN, MOTOBUG-- I MEAN, MOTOBUD'S-- NONAGGRESSION SUBROUTINE IS ISOLATED, AND THE WIRELESS BROADCAST IS PRIMED.

BUT WHAT IF--

AHEM! I'M WAITING...

OOPS, SORRY! SENDING NOW!

BIP

SIGNAL SENT

YANK

SWIP

WOW, IT'S GREAT TO BE SONIC THE HEDGEHOG, COMPLETELY UNAWARE OF ANY NEARBY DANGER!

I SURE HOPE NO BADNIKS TRY TO SNEAK UP ON ME.

IT WORKED! THEIR ATTACK RESPONSE WAS COMPLETELY NEGATED!

AM I REALLY THAT BORING? I'M LOSING TO A ROCK.

IF WE CAN GET THIS REPROGRAMMING TO STICK, ALL EGGMAN'S ROBOTS COULD BE SAVED.

LET'S NOT GET AHEAD OF OURSELVES. EGGMAN'S ALWAYS GOT SOMETHING NEW UP HIS SLEEVE.

AND WITH THE WEIRD STUFF THAT'S BEEN HAPPENING LATELY, I DUNNO... IT DOESN'T *SEEM* LIKE HIS STYLE, BUT...

IF EGGMAN STARTS SOMETHING, WE'LL HANDLE IT!

THE ONLY THING I'M WORRIED ABOUT RIGHT NOW IS *LUNCH*.

HOW DO TACOS SOUND?

OKAY! ARE YOU COMING IN, BELLE?

I THINK I'LL STAY OUT HERE FOR A WHILE.

WAIT, NOT CHILI DOGS? ARE YOU OKAY?

I LIKE TO EAT OTHER THINGS! I'LL JUST HAVE A CHILI DOG FOR *DESSERT*.

LATER...

SSSCRRR

SCRRD

MOTOBUD?

SSSCRiP

WHAT'S UP, LITTLE DUDE?

SCRRR

DO YOU WANNA GO...

SCRAAA

...OUT?

OKAY, LET'S GIVE THE DOOR A BREAK--

SWISH

HM. THAT'S NOT GOOD.

VRRRM

SORNNNGH... IT'S THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT...

CRASH

GET... OUT.

HAVE TO... GET OUT.

HEY, WAIT!
TAILS!
LOOK AT THEIR EYES... THEY'RE BOTH UNDER A *CONTROL SIGNAL!* LIKE WHAT WE WERE *TESTING*, BUT SO MUCH WORSE.
FIGHT IT, BELLE! I KNOW YOU CAN!
LURCH
THOK

THINK YOU CAN WHIP UP SOMETHING TO FIX THIS?

I-I'LL TRY. BUY ME SOME TIME.

HAVE TO... GET OUT...

NOBODY'S GOING ANYWHERE JUST YET!

THIS HAS "MAD DOCTOR" WRITTEN ALL OVER IT...

GIMME A CLUE! BLINK ONCE FOR *EGGMAN*, TWICE FOR *STARLINE!*

KRRIK

KLIK-DING

...I DON'T HAVE THAT ONE IN MY BLINK CODE. GOT ANYTHING EASIER?

OKAY, NOT IN A BANTERING MOOD. *NOTED.*

HOW'S IT GOING IN THERE, TAILS?

ALMOST READY, HANG ON!

AT LEAST SHE'S EASY TO D--GAH!

CHA-CHUNK

SHK-CHK-CHK

GET... OUT...

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WHAM

THIS IS GONNA HURT, SO SORRY IN ADVANCE!

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BELLE?

...I-IT'S ME. I'M OKAY.

IT'S A GOOD THING I HAD THAT PROTOTYPE ZETI ZAPPER* LEFT OVER. IT'LL STOP ANY WIRELESS SIGNALS GOING IN OR OUT.

ARE YOU... SURE YOU'RE OKAY?

*SEE STH #42--EDS.

IT WAS A BEACON. BADNIKS--*ALL OF THEM*--HAVE BEEN CALLED IN. *EGGMAN IS SUMMONING AN ARMY*. AND I...

...I AM GOING TO FIND THAT MAN AND GIVE HIM A PIECE OF MY MIND BECAUSE I AM *TIRED* OF GETTING *YANKED AROUND*.

AN ARMY?! WHERE? DID YOU GET COORDINATES?

TO THE SOUTH, I THINK. PRETTY FAR AWAY... DANG IT! IT'S ALREADY FADING.

WELL...

"...WE'VE STILL GOT ONE BADNIK WHO KNOWS WHERE TO GO."

IT LOOKS LIKE THE OTHER BADNIKS ALREADY RAN OFF.

THEN WE'D BETTER GET MOVING.

HERE GOES!

LEAD THE WAY, LITTLE GUY.

VRRRM

WHOA...

!

I THINK THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE DOWN THERE!

SONIC! WE'VE GOTTA--

SWOOSH

DANG IT-- SIT DOWN! DON'T GET THEIR ATTENTION!

W-WE'VE GOT TO CLEAR A PATH! BLAST OUR WAY THROUGH!

WHOOSH

IF YOU DON'T GET IN THEIR WAY, THEY WON'T BUG YOU. THERE'S A HOUSE UP THERE--GET INSIDE AND WAIT FOR THIS TO BLOW OVER. OKAY?

UH... YES, SIR.

COOL. LET'S GO, GUYS.

LATER...

WE'VE BEEN FOLLOWING THESE BADNIKS FOR *HOURS*. DO YOU THINK WE'RE GETTING CLOSE?

BEATS ME. LAST I CHECKED, THERE'S NOTHING OUT THIS WAY BUT THESE WOODS.

THERE'S GOTTA BE *SOMETHING*...

THAT'S NOT A GOOD FACE.

THERE'S AN ENTIRE *CITY!* IT DEFINITELY LOOKS LIKE EGGMAN'S!

WE HAVE TO STOP MOTOBUD--

RRRR

THIS LITTLE GUY'S NOT GONNA TURN AROUND, AND I ONLY KNOW ***ONE WAY*** TO STOP A BADNIK.

LET'S... I DON'T KNOW, PUT THE ZAPPER ON MOTOBUD INSTEAD! THAT'LL STOP--

WE CAN'T. AS SOON AS IT'S OFF YOU, YOU'LL BE VULNERABLE TO THE SIGNAL AGAIN.

I'VE BEEN STUDYING ITS CONSTRUCTION... I MIGHT BE ABLE TO CUT MOTOBUD'S ***POWER.***

AND THAT WON'T SCRAP IT?

...

I DON'T KNOW.

BUT I'M NOT LETTING EGGMAN HAVE THIS.

KA-CH ACK

SCRIK-SCRIK-SCRIK

RRR...

HATE TO RUSH YA, BUT WE'VE SUDDENLY GOTTEN *VERY* POPULAR...

KZZAK

PYOUMMM

PHEW...

UH, BELLE?

I THOUGHT I SAW--

"TO WHOMEVER FINDS THIS LETTER, IT IS FOR MY DAUGHTER, BELLE THE TINKERER. I HOPE THAT ONE DAY SHE MIGHT READ IT, UNLIKELY AS THAT MAY BE.

"THOUGH I AM A CAPTIVE, I DO NOT ASK FOR RESCUE. IT'S TOO LATE FOR THAT. THIS IS A CONFESSION, TO EASE AN OLD MAN'S CONSCIENCE.

"I'VE LIVED A GOOD LIFE, BRINGING JOY TO THOSE AROUND ME. WATCHING YOU BECOME THE WONDERFUL WOMAN YOU ARE.

"MY CAPTOR IS ADAMANT THAT I AM ACTUALLY THE WOULD-BE DESPOT, DR. EGGMAN. THE THOUGHT OF IT TURNS MY STOMACH. STILL, I CANNOT DENY THE LOGIC OF HIS EVIDENCE...

"I AM NOT DR. EGGMAN, BUT IF I SOMEHOW LOSE MYSELF TO THIS NIGHTMARE... I AM TRULY, DEEPLY SORRY. TO YOU, AND TO THE WORLD.

"I LOVE YOU, BELLE. I ALWAYS WILL. GOODBYE.

"--MR. TINKER"

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HE'S REALLY GONE...

...I WAS *STUPID* TO THINK I COULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

TMP

YOU'VE ALREADY MADE A DIFFERENCE, BELLE. ALL THE LITTLE WINS, THE GOOD MEMORIES BETWEEN THE HARD TIMES, THE FRIENDS WE FIND... *THOSE ARE REAL*. NOBODY CAN TAKE THAT AWAY.

WE'LL KEEP MOVING FORWARD. *TOGETHER.*

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WE'VE GOTTA CHECK OUT THE CITY. IF YOU WANT TO GO BACK TO THE WORKSHOP, THAT'S OKAY.

...NO. SONIC'S RIGHT.

LET'S GO.

THAT'S MORE LIKE IT! HANG ON, YOU TWO. I THINK THIS CALLS FOR A LITTLE *EXTRA SPEED*.

BOOM

NEXT TIME:
BADNIKS! MORE BADNIKS! DR. EGGMAN! DR. STARLINE! SURGE! KIT! AND MORE!

NEXT MONTH

SONIC LETTERS SQUAD

ART BY NICHOLAS

SONIC X TAILS

ART BY SARAH

ART BY RAY

ART BY IDW_FANBOY

Greetings, Sonic Squad! AHH! It's almost time for the big battle! Thank you for joining Evan Stanley, Matt Herms, Heather Breckel, and Shawn Lee for "Wound Up"! Now, let's check out your art and get to know a little bit more about Sonic The Hedgehog: Imposter Syndrome *artist* ***Thomas Rothlisberger!***

Thanks for joining us, Squad. Don't forget to send your art and letters to letters@idwpublishing.com and make sure to mark them, "OKAY TO PRINT"! And join the IDW Sonic Comics Squad on Facebook! Next month, check out the conclusion to Imposter Syndrome *#4 which leads up to our milestone issue #50 for an epic showdown.*

CREATOR CORNER:
THOMAS ROTHLISBERGER

What part of the Sonic *comics do you create?*

I started out doing covers, but I've recently been given the chance to do some interiors! I do the pencils and inks, which then get handed off to the colorist/letterer/editor/assistant editor. (Wizards, basically.)

Who's your favorite Sonic *character in the IDW books?*

I'm going to try to keep it interesting and limit it to IDW-specific characters, so… Whisper! Easy. Wait—no! I mean Surge and Kit!

How do you take your chili dog?

Spicy. Sliced jalapeños and plenty of cayenne. If I'm not sweating while I eat it, I don't want anything to do with it. No onions!

How did you first discover Sonic?

The first console I ever owned was the Sega Genesis that came with *Sonic 2* as a pack-in title. That was my first exposure to the guy, and he's been a part of my life, in one way or another, ever since.

What was the first IDW Sonic *issue you worked on?*

I did the pencils/inks for the B cover on issue #35.

What's a boring fact about yourself?

Hammerheads are my favorite type of shark.

What's your favorite comic (besides Sonic*)?*

Jeff Smith's *Bone.*

What do you do when you're not drawing/working on Sonic?

Spend time with my very supportive family. We've been getting into board/tabletop games recently. Feels like I spend more time researching and learning rules than I do actually sitting down to play anything. I guess that's board games though!

What's the most unusual Sonic *thing you own?*

The Sanic chili dog–flavored G FUEL collector's box. It was an impulse buy, and there isn't a day that goes by that I don't look at it with regret.

If you could go to dinner with one Sonic *character, who would it be and why?*

Big the Cat. He's very down-to-earth, and I feel like there would be more eating, less talking.

What kind of animal would you be in Sonic's *universe?*

Turtle. Thomas the Turtle. What could possibly go wrong?

ART ADAM BRYCE THOMAS COLORS LEONARDO ITO

ART GIGI DUTREIX

ART NATHALIE FOURDRAINE